

Claims

1. (currently amended) ~~A methodology for standardizing a web-based clearing system for a trading platform, defined as a Node and linked to a local commercial banks, further comprising:~~

~~Means of incorporating payments system into the Node for financial transactions;
means of allowing the Node to clear financial transaction;
means of allowing the Node to manage cash for settlement;
means of allowing the Node to make payments against physical delivery.~~

~~A cash management data processing system for multi-location standardized trading Nodes, allowing financial clearing within each Node, and between any two Nodes, linked to banking payment systems, comprising:~~

- ~~a) Fiduciary and electronic Escrow accounts at each Node;~~
- ~~b) a means for an electronic fund movement between Fiduciary and Escrow accounts bi-directionally at each Node;~~
- ~~c) an electronic intelligent hub for matching orders among different Nodes~~
- ~~d) a means for an electronic fund movement from Fiduciary account of one Node to another for financial clearing;~~
- ~~e) a price matching engine in selected base currency;~~
- ~~f) a means for providing daily cash settlement for financial reporting;~~
- ~~g) a means for reporting daily account statement;~~
- ~~h) a means for daily physical delivery settlement.~~

2. (currently amended) ~~System of claim 1, wherein said payments system includes maintenance of Fiduciary account, further blocking funds allocated for customer pending transaction from Fiduciary account. the required funds for customer's pending match will be blocked from said Fiduciary account until a match is made or the order is canceled.~~

3. (currently amended) ~~System of claim 2, claim 1 wherein the Fiduciary account is maintained as customer-specific segregated account in fixed currency as well as variable~~

12. (currently amended) System of claim 11, wherein said electronically transferred fund ~~is recorded to the customer segregated accounts a fixed currency as order is matched in another Node~~ is moved to Escrow account of the Node that the match is made.

13. (currently amended) System of ~~claim 11~~ claim 12, wherein said fund movement ~~internal transfer from Fiduciary to Escrow account in fixed currency if additional fund is to be deposited in the Fiduciary account of one Node from another Node~~ said transferred fund to Escrow account constitutes the additional fund required to complete settlement process in the Node that match was made.

14. (canceled) .

15.(currently amended)System of ~~claim 14~~, claim 1 wherein the time period for daily settlement time period extends reflects the time governed by payments system, from the time T representing day 1 execution of the trade to T+1 representing day 2 settlement date plus time zone difference which includes International Date Line, depending on Geographical location of Nodes with respect to each other.

16. (currently amended) A ~~procedure wherein the National Automatic Clearing House Association format and Rules are utilized as payment system format wherever the national clearinghouses communicate with Federal Reserve Automatic Clearing House through local bank.~~ System of claim 1 wherein said banking payment system includes the Automatic Clearing House format and Rules utilization whenever Fiduciary account in a Node communicates with Federal Reserve Automatic Clearing House directly, or via the National Clearinghouses in North America.

17. (currently amended) A ~~procedure~~ system of claim 1 wherein SWIFT protocols MT 103 and MT 940 are utilized ~~as general~~ for payments system format outside North America to communicate with Fiduciary accounts of Nodes using any executing electronic fund transfer between any two Nodes in different locations for financial clearing and settlement..

18. (currently amended) A ~~procedure~~ System of claim 14, wherein the real-time interbank currency exchange rates at noon time, Eastern Standard Time, are captured for daily currency translation of funds conversion to the corresponding local currency is computed and credited to or for the purpose of moving between debited from respective Fiduciary account and Escrow account at the end of each trading day for settlement adjustment

19..(new) System of claim 2 wherein blocked fund is a predetermined and periodically updated percentage amount of total monetary value of transaction for the duration of the agreement.

20. (new) System of claim 4, wherein the required blocked fund in said Escrow account is maintained in base currency, marked to-market and adjusted daily for the duration of agreement.

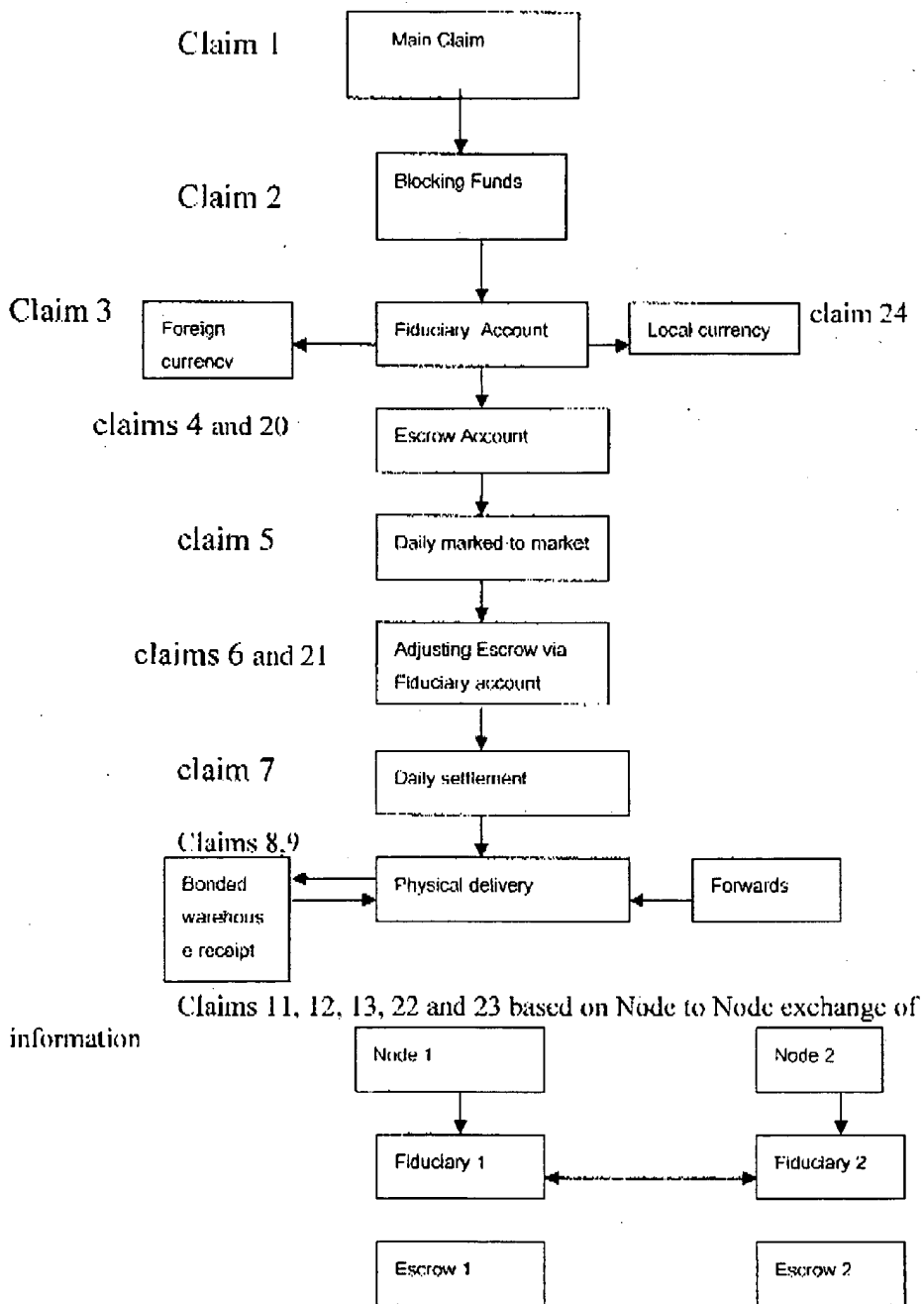
21.(new) System of claim 6, wherein said price adjustment to blocked fund is either addition of funds from Fiduciary to Escrow account or returning excess funds from Escrow to Fiduciary account all in base currency within a Node.

22. (new) System of claim 13, wherein said daily adjustment to Escrow account in a different Node where match has been made includes daily cash settlement.

23. (new) System of claim 13, wherein transferred funds is reversed to move funds from Escrow account in the Node where the match was made to its Fiduciary account allowing excess fund be returned to Fiduciary account in the Node where order was initiated to complete the settlement process.

24. (new) System of claim 1, wherein said daily account statement for customer includes cash daily settlement of open positions in base currency and local currency

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~~currency and translating variable currency to fixed currency as needed in matching process for clearing.~~ said Fiduciary account holds local currency and at least one foreign currency as base currency in a Node.

4. (currently amended) System of claim 3, wherein ~~blocked fund in said segregated Fiduciary account is moved to an Escrow account in fixed currency for order matching, further un-blocking fund if the order is not matched as requested or canceled.~~ claim 2, wherein said blocked funds from Fiduciary account are moved to Escrow account in base currency after a match is made.

5. (currently amended) System of claim 4, wherein a daily price adjustment to the blocked funds in said Escrow account is made ~~after daily settlement~~ reflecting marked-to-market cash value of transaction.

6. (currently amended) System of claim 5, wherein said ~~adjustment will result in movement of funds between said Escrow and Fiduciary accounts,~~ marked-to-market pricing triggers movement of funds between Fiduciary and Escrow account to make the necessary adjustment.

7. (currently amended) System of claim 4 claim 6, wherein the net amount retained in Escrow account resulting from said movement of funds between Fiduciary and Escrow account constitute daily cash settlement ~~is made by adjusting customer said Fiduciary account in a Node.~~

8. (currently amended) System of claim 1 wherein, ~~[[a]]~~designated bonded warehouses are utilized for said physical delivery settlement.

9. (currently amended) System of claim 8, wherein, physical delivery settlement is made by, exchanging ~~electronic said~~ bonded warehouse digital receipt of goods with electronic ~~cash fund~~ transfer ~~from~~ through Node's Fiduciary account

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended)) System of ~~claim 10~~ claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]said procedure for financial clearing between two Nodes transfers~~ is accomplished by transferring fund from Fiduciary account of one Node to Fiduciary account of another Node in fixed currency base currency for purpose of clearing a pending match.